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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,819	12/22/2000	Kazushi Ishigaki	1359.1034	8799

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EXAMINER

CHAI, LONGBIT

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2131

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/741,819

Applicant(s)

ISHIGAKI, KAZUSHI

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 December 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. The foreign priority has been made in this application.
2. The effective filing date for the subject matter defined in the pending claims in this application is 6/26/2000 on the benefit of foreign priority date.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 9, 14 – 15, 20 – 22, and 24 – 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook (Publication Number: US 2003/0093335 A1), hereinafter referred to as Silverbrook, in view of Nagai (Publication Number: EP 0982927 A1), hereinafter referred to as Nagai.
4. As per claims 1, 20 and 24, Silverbrook teaches an electronic commerce system for conducting a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

- a. a user identity information reading part provided in a dealer terminal, for reading user identity information presented by the user (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022], and Figure 57);
 - b. a commercial transaction information presenting part provided in the dealer terminal, for presenting commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);
 - c. a hand-written signature input part provided in the dealer terminal, for reading a hand-written signature input by the user who agrees to the presented commercial transaction information as electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] and [0022]: Silverbrook also discloses the system architecture may be used with a single computer or it is preferred to operate over a computer network such as Internet (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0037] Line 5 – 7) i.e. by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that verification be performed upon the same machine or at the same time as the act of signing itself – i.e. the hand-written signature could be from either a user terminal or from a dealer terminal);
5. Silverbrook discloses the watermark regions which forms part of the compressed page image (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0545]).

6. Silverbrook does not teach an electronic watermark embedding part representing contents of the commercial transaction information, the user identity information, and the electronic signature data.

7. Nagai teaches:

d. an electronic watermark embedding part provided in a third-party organization, for obtaining commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction information, the user identity information, and the electronic signature data from the dealer terminal, and providing commercial transaction identity information that uniquely specifies the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information, thereby generating electronic signature data with an electronic watermark (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: Nagai discloses embedding digital signature and electronic data as an digital watermark);

8. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of Silverbrook because Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the authentication information.

e. a commercial transaction data storing part provided in the dealer terminal, for obtaining the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, and storing the electronic signature data together with the commercial transaction information (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0376] Line 4 – 6 and Table 3).

9. As per claim 9, Silverbrook teaches an electronic commerce system for conducting a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

a. a user identity information reading part provided in a dealer terminal, for reading user identity information presented by a user (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] [0022], and Figure 57);

b. a commercial transaction information presenting part provided in the user terminal, for presenting commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction obtained from the dealer terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);

c. a hand-written signature input part provided in a user terminal, for reading a hand-written signature input by a user who agrees to the presented commercial transaction information as electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] and [0022]: Silverbrook also discloses the system architecture may be used with a single computer or it is preferred to operate over a computer network such as Internet (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0037] Line 5 – 7) i.e. by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that verification be

performed upon the same machine or at the same time as the act of signing itself – i.e. the hand-written signature could be from either a user terminal or from a dealer terminal);

10. Silverbrook discloses the watermark regions which forms part of the compressed page image (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0545]).

11. Silverbrook does not teach an electronic watermark embedding part provided in a third-party organization, for obtaining commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction and the user identity information from the dealer terminal, obtaining the electronic signature data from the user terminal, and providing commercial transaction identity information that uniquely specifies the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information, thereby generating electronic signature data with an electronic watermark.

12. Naigai teaches:

d. an electronic watermark embedding part provided in a third-party organization, for obtaining commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction and the user identity information from the dealer terminal, obtaining the electronic signature data from the user terminal, and providing commercial transaction identity information that uniquely specifies the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information, thereby generating electronic signature data with an electronic watermark (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: Nagai discloses embedding digital signature and electronic data as an digital watermark);

13. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 1 (d).

e. a commercial transaction data storing part provided in the dealer terminal, for obtaining the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, and storing the electronic signature data together with the commercial transaction information (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0376] Line 4 – 6 and Table 3).

14. As per claim 14, Silverbrook teaches An electronic commerce system for conducting a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

a. a user identity information reading part provided in a dealer terminal, for reading user identity information presented by the user (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] [0022], and Figure 57);

b. a commercial transaction information presenting part provided in the user terminal, for presenting commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction obtained from the dealer terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);

c. a hand-written signature input part provided in the user terminal, for reading a hand-written signature input by the user who agrees to the presented commercial transaction information as electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] and [0022]: Silverbrook also discloses the system architecture may be used with a single computer or it is preferred to operate over a computer network such as Internet (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0037] Line 5 – 7)
i.e. by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including

communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that verification be performed upon the same machine or at the same time as the act of signing itself – i.e. the hand-written signature could be from either a user terminal or from a dealer terminal);

15. Silverbrook discloses the watermark regions which forms part of the compressed page image (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0545]).

16. Silverbrook does not teach an electronic watermark embedding part provided in the user terminal, for providing commercial transaction identity information that uniquely specifies the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information, thereby generating electronic signature data with an electronic watermark.

17. Nagai teaches:

d. an electronic watermark embedding part provided in the user terminal, for providing commercial transaction identity information that uniquely specifies the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information, thereby generating electronic signature data with an electronic watermark (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: (1) Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the

Art Unit: 2131

authentication information (2) by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that electronic watermark is provided either from a dealer terminal or from a third-party organization or even from a user terminal in light of advanced networking and authentication techniques).

18. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 1 (d).

e. a commercial transaction data storing part provided in the dealer terminal, for obtaining the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, and storing the electronic signature data together with the commercial transaction information (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0376] Line 4 – 6 and Table 3).

19. As per claims 21 and 25, Silverbrook teaches an electronic commerce system for conducting a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

a. reading user identity information presented by a user at a dealer terminal

(Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] [0022], and Figure 57);

b. presenting commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction at a user terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);

c. reading a hand-written signature input by the user who agrees to the commercial transaction information presented at the user terminal as electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] and [0022]: Silverbrook also discloses the system architecture may be used with a single computer or it is preferred

to operate over a computer network such as Internet (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0037] Line 5 – 7) i.e. by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that verification be performed upon the same machine or at the same time as the act of signing itself – i.e. the hand-written signature could be from either a user terminal or from a dealer terminal);

d. obtaining the commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction and the user identity information from the dealer terminal, and obtaining the electronic signature data from the user terminal in a third-party organization (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);

20. Silverbrook discloses the watermark regions which forms part of the compressed page image (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0545]).

21. Silverbrook does not teach providing commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information to generate electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in the third-party organization.

22. Nagai teaches:

e. providing commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information to generate electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in the

third-party organization (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: Nagai discloses embedding digital signature and electronic data as an digital watermark);

23. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of Silverbrook because Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the authentication information.

f. obtaining the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark and storing it together with the commercial transaction information at the dealer terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0376] Line 4 – 6 and Table 3).

24. As per claims 22 and 26, Silverbrook teaches a system for conducting a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

a. reading user identity information presented by a user at a dealer terminal Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] [0022], and Figure 57);

b. presenting commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction obtained from the dealer terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021], [0022] and Figure 60);

c. reading a hand-written signature input by the user who agrees to the commercial transaction information presented at the user terminal as electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0020], [0021] and [0022]: Silverbrook also discloses the system architecture may be used with a single computer or it is preferred to operate over a computer network such as Internet (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0037] Line 5 – 7) i.e. by virtue of today's advanced computer-to-computer communications, including communication over the Internet, many applications will not require that verification be performed upon the same machine or at the same time as the act of signing itself – i.e. the hand-written signature could be from either a user terminal or from a dealer terminal);

25. Silverbrook discloses the watermark regions which forms part of the compressed page image (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0545]).

26. Silverbrook does not teach providing commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information to generate electronic signature data with an electronic watermark at the user terminal.

27. Nagai teaches providing commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information to generate electronic signature data with an electronic watermark at the user terminal (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: Nagai discloses embedding digital signature and electronic data as an digital watermark).

28. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of Silverbrook because Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the authentication information.

e. obtaining the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark and storing it together with the commercial transaction information at the dealer terminal (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0376] Line 4 – 6 and Table 3).

29. As per claims 2, 10 and 15, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1, 9 and 14 respectively). Silverbrook as modified further teaches the third-party organization includes a signature authenticating part for searching for previously registered authentic signature data of the user, based on the user identity information, and comparing the input electronic signature data with the authentic signature data, thereby authenticating the electronic signature data (Silverbrook: see for example, Paragraph [0122] Line 5 – 7).

30. Claims 19, 23 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Leary (Patent Number: US 6704714 B1), hereinafter referred to as O'Leary, in view of Nagai (Publication Number: EP 0982927 A1), hereinafter referred to as Nagai.

31. As per claim 19, 23 and 27, O'Leary teaches an electronic commerce system for verifying correctness of a commercial transaction between a user and a dealer, comprising:

a. a commercial transaction information obtaining part for obtaining commercial transaction information representing contents of the commercial transaction (O'Leary: see for example, Column 3 Line 22 and Column 4 Line 5 – 8);

32. O'Leary does not teach an electronic signature data with an electronic watermark obtaining part for obtaining electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in which commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction is provided as electronic watermark information to the electronic signature data used for the commercial transaction;

33. Nagai teaches

b. an electronic signature data with an electronic watermark obtaining part for obtaining electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in which commercial transaction identity information uniquely specifying the commercial transaction is provided as electronic watermark information to the electronic signature data used for

the commercial transaction (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 11 – 18: Nagai discloses embedding digital signature and electronic data as an digital watermark);

34. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of O'Leary because Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the authentication information.

35. Nagai further teaches:

c. a tampering check part for inspecting the electronic watermark information of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, thereby checking whether or not the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark is tampered (Nagai: see for example, Column 4 Line 20 – 24);

d. a commercial transaction identity information extracting part for extracting commercial transaction identity information from the electronic watermark information of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark (Nagai: see for example, Column 6 Line 27 – 40 and Figure 5 Element 403/214: Naigai teaches digital signature appended authentication information (see Figure 5 Element 403/214) as well as the information extraction part from the electronic watermark. The transaction information

can be considered as part of the authentication information that will be used for verifying the correctness of the transaction later on);

36. O'Leary further teaches:

e. a commercial transaction information searching part for obtaining commercial transaction information uniquely specified by the commercial transaction identity information from the commercial transaction information storing part storing authentic commercial transaction information (O'Leary: see for example, Column 3 Line, Column 4 Line 5 – 8); and

f. a verifying part for comparing the commercial transaction information obtained by the commercial transaction information obtaining part with the commercial transaction information obtained by the commercial transaction information searching part (O'Leary: see for example, Column 3 Line, Column 4 Line 5 – 8).

37. Claims 3 – 4, 8, 11 – 12 and 16 – 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook (Publication Number: US 2003/0093335 A1), hereinafter referred to as Silverbrook, in view of Nagai (Publication Number: EP 0982927 A1), hereinafter referred to as Nagai, and in view of Smithies (Patent Number: 5647017), hereinafter referred to as Smithies.

38. As per claims 3, 11 and 16, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 2, 10 and 15 respectively). Silverbrook as modified does not teach the electronic watermark embedding part includes an electronic

signature data abstracting part for generating abstract information by abstracting the electronic signature data to electronic data with a previously specified bit length, and provides the abstract information as well as the commercial transaction identity information to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information.

39. Smithies teaches the electronic watermark embedding part includes an electronic signature data abstracting part for generating abstract information by abstracting the electronic signature data to electronic data with a previously specified bit length, and provides the abstract information as well as the commercial transaction identity information to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information (Smithies: see for example, Column 6 Line 44 – 56).

40. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of Silverbrook-Nagai because Smithies teaches an integrated method for the electronic capture and storage of a handwritten signature for authentication purpose.

41. As per claims 4, 12 and 17, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1, 9 and 14 respectively). Silverbrook as modified does not teach the electronic watermark embedding part includes an electronic signature data abstracting part for generating abstract information by abstracting the electronic signature data to electronic data with a previously specified bit length, and provides the abstract information as well as the commercial transaction identity information to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information.

42. Smithies teaches the electronic watermark embedding part includes an electronic signature data abstracting part for generating abstract information by abstracting the electronic signature data to electronic data with a previously specified bit length, and provides the abstract information as well as the commercial transaction identity information to the electronic signature data as electronic watermark information (Smithies: see for example, Column 6 Line 44 – 56).

43. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 3.

44. As per claims 8 and 18, Silverbrok as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1 and 14 respectively). Silverbrok as modified does not teach a handwritten signature omission determining part for determining whether or not processing of authenticating hand-written signature is omitted, based on the commercial transaction information, wherein, in a case where omission of a hand-written signature is admitted by the hand-written signature omission determining part, reading of electronic signature data by the hand-written signature input part and generation of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark by the electronic watermark embedding part are omitted, and the read user identification information and the commercial transaction information are stored in the commercial transaction data storing part.

45. Smithies teaches a handwritten signature omission determining part for determining whether or not processing of authenticating hand-written signature is omitted, based on the commercial transaction information, wherein, in a case where

omission of a hand-written signature is admitted by the hand-written signature omission determining part, reading of electronic signature data by the hand-written signature input part and generation of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark by the electronic watermark embedding part are omitted, and the read user identification information and the commercial transaction information are stored in the commercial transaction data storing part (Smithies: see for example, Column 15 Line 35 – 39).

46. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 3.

47. Claims 5 – 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Silverbrook (Publication Number: US 2003/0093335 A1), hereinafter referred to as Silverbrook, in view of Nagai (Publication Number: EP 0982927 A1), hereinafter referred to as Nagai, and in view of Van Zoest (Publication Number: US 2002/0082922 A1), hereinafter referred to as Van Zoest.

48. As per claim 5 and 13, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 1 and 9 respectively). Silverbrook as modified does not teach the electronic watermark embedding part includes a user confirming part for directly inquiring of the user about agreement on generating of electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in the commercial transaction, based on registered user's contact information, in a case where electronic signature data is transmitted through the dealer terminal, and the user confirming part notifies the dealer terminal of rejection of

generation of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, in a case where user's confirmation is not obtained.

49. Van Zoest teaches the electronic watermark embedding part includes a user confirming part for directly inquiring of the user about agreement on generating of electronic signature data with an electronic watermark in the commercial transaction, based on registered user's contact information, in a case where electronic signature data is transmitted through the dealer terminal, and the user confirming part notifies the dealer terminal of rejection of generation of the electronic signature data with an electronic watermark, in a case where user's confirmation is not obtained (Van Zoest: see for example, Paragraph [0101], [0063], [0108] Line 15 – 21 and Paragraph [0113]).

50. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teaching of Nagai within the system of Silverbrook-Nagai because (a) Nagai discloses a watermark technique to combine the digital signature and the electronic data with each other for generating authentication-enabled electronic data as digital signature appended authentication information (Nagai: see for example, Figure 5 Element 403/214) that can be further used for verifying the transaction after the commercial transaction is completed, in which the transaction information can be considered as part of the authentication information, (b) Van Zoest teaches a method for synchronizing delivery of electronic works over a network and discloses a method of verification for confirmation from the location distributor by using the user contact information such as cellular phone or email address and etc -- This is

especially needed when the user signature is taken place in the dealer terminal instead of user terminal as the claim recited herein.

51. As per claim 6, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 5). Silverbrook as modified does not teach the electronic watermark embedding part includes a telephone communication system and a voice response system, the contact information of the user is a mobile phone number carried by the user, and the user confirming part inquires of the user about results of the user's confirmation by using voice information through the mobile phone carried by the user to obtain user's confirmation.

52. Van Zoest teaches the electronic watermark embedding part includes a telephone communication system and a voice response system, the contact information of the user is a mobile phone number carried by the user, and the user confirming part inquires of the user about results of the user's confirmation by using voice information through the mobile phone carried by the user to obtain user's confirmation (Van Zoest: see for example, Paragraph [0101], [0063], [0108] Line 15 – 21 and Paragraph [0113]).

53. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 5.

54. As per claim 7, Silverbrook as modified teaches the claimed invention as described above (see claim 5). Silverbrook as modified does not teach the electronic watermark embedding part includes a communication part with respect to a portable terminal held by the user, the contact information of the user is address information of the portable terminal held by the user, and the user confirming part inquires of the user

about results of the user's confirmation by using electronic data through the portable terminal to obtain user's confirmation.

55. Van Zoest teaches the electronic watermark embedding part includes a communication part with respect to a portable terminal held by the user, the contact information of the user is address information of the portable terminal held by the user, and the user confirming part inquires of the user about results of the user's confirmation by using electronic data through the portable terminal to obtain user's confirmation (Van Zoest: see for example, Paragraph [0101], [0063], [0108] Line 15 – 21 and Paragraph [0113]).

56. Same rationale of combination applies here as above in rejecting the claim 5.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 703-305-0710. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131

LBC


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100